Guide to the Office of Mayor Megan Barry

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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MISSION OF THE MAYOR’S OFFICE

To serve the citizens of Davidson County by directing the executive and administrative functions of the Metropolitan Government through enhanced collaboration while ensuring the local government operates in an efficient, transparent and fiscally responsible manner.

Organization of the Mayor’s Office
DEPARTMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Executive Office

The Executive Office is led by the Mayor’s Chief Operating Officer who coordinates Metro departments and agencies, and the Chief of Staff, who coordinates the Mayor’s staff and policy. The Executive Office is comprised of functions that serve and support the entire Mayor’s staff: education, event support, external communication, innovation, legislative relationships, scheduling and youth. Metro’s Chief Diversity Officer and Chief Strategy Officer are also part of the executive team as are security and administrative mayoral direct support staff.

Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement

The mission of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods & Community Engagement (ONCE) is to improve the quality of life in Nashville's neighborhoods through a more informed, active and involved citizenry and enhanced governmental response to community needs. The main function of ONCE is to provide constituent services through the Mayor’s office, administer neighborhood and community group support, increase community inclusion and to support special initiatives led by Mayor Barry. Within the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement, the Mayor’s Office of New Americans (MONA) works to engage the immigrant and refugee communities and empower them to participate in our government and our community.

Office of Economic and Community Development

The Mayor’s Office of Economic and Community Development (ECD) assists Mayor Barry in recruiting new businesses to the City, helping existing businesses expand and working to ensure that the environment in Nashville is conducive to long-term economic growth. The Economic and Community Development team is committed to supporting businesses of all sizes and types, from new entrepreneurial ventures to relocation of global businesses. ECD works closely with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and other partners to make Nashville a compelling place to work, live and invest.

Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment

The Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment (OEOE) seeks to ensure that Nashville’s growth results in an increased quality of life for all Nashvillians through innovation and collaboration across Nashville’s economic opportunity efforts. OEOE routinely engages community partners, efficiently leverages resources, and facilitates long-term planning and coordination to reduce poverty in Nashville. With an emphasis on social, racial, and economic equity, OEOE currently focuses on the following economic opportunity priority areas: affordable housing, workforce development, financial empowerment and homelessness. As Nashville continues to experience economic growth, Mayor Barry believes it is critical that the benefits of the City’s economic success reach all of our residents.
Office of Infrastructure

Mayor Barry’s Infrastructure Team provides leadership, accountability, and stakeholder engagement around Nashville’s push to create an efficient, equitable transportation network, as well as efforts to incorporate sustainability throughout all operations of Metro Government and the city at-large. The team works closely with the community in the development, coordination, and administration of transportation and growth policies for Nashville, including adherence to and implementation of: NashvilleNext, the countywide General Plan, nMotion, Metro Transit Authority (MTA)/Regional Transit Authority (RTA)’s strategic master plan, and Middle Tennessee Connected, the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (MPO) regional transportation plan that builds on NashvilleNext and nMotion. The team also works closely with citizens, the business community, and Metro departments – including Public Works, Planning, Parks, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Metro Development and Housing Authority, MTA– to update and implement Nashville’s policies and plans around sidewalks, bikeways, parks, greenways, and other aspects of the built environment that affect livability, human and environmental health.
Mayor Megan Barry is serving her first term as the seventh mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County following an historic election in which she became the first woman and first member of the Metro Council to be elected Mayor.

Born in Santa Ana, California, and raised in Overland Park, Kansas, Barry moved to Nashville in 1991 to earn her MBA at Vanderbilt University. Following graduation, she built a 20-year career as an ethics compliance officer and consultant in the telecommunications and health care sectors. In 2007 and 2011, she was elected to serve as one of five at-large members of the Metro Council.

Barry's focus as mayor is on improving the educational outcomes at our public schools, engaging regional and state partners to develop a unified vision and plan for transportation, creating more affordable housing options for residents of all backgrounds, and continuing to grow our economy while ensuring all parts of Davidson County share in the prosperity.

Barry has put an emphasis on building upon Nashville's economic growth with a renewed focus on supporting the music industry and the City's creative and entrepreneurial sectors. She has also focused on addressing the challenges that come with growth by creating the first ever transportation and infrastructure department within the Mayor's Office and establishing the Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment, which works to make sure the most vulnerable Nashvillians can gain access to jobs, affordable housing, and financial empowerment services.

In December of 2015, Barry convened the first of multiple youth violence summits aimed at bringing the community together to discuss and address issues related to the rise in violence among teenagers and young adults in Nashville.

In building her administration, Barry has put a sharp focus on ensuring that the Mayor's Office is reflective of the City it serves. To that end, Barry has put together the most diverse team in the history of Metro Nashville, with a majority female staff and African-Americans, Latinos and LGBT Nashvillians in key leadership positions throughout the administration.

Megan Barry is married to Bruce Barry, a professor of organization studies at Vanderbilt. Their son, Max, is a junior in college, and they share their home with two rescue dogs, Hank and Boris.
MAYOR’S STAFF

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Richard Riebeling, Chief Operating Officer

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Richard M. Riebeling serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. Prior to this role, he served as the Director of Finance for the Metropolitan Government under Mayor Karl Dean from 2007-2015. Riebeling’s professional career includes public finance investment banking, private legal practice, and newspaper reporting. In addition, he had two prior public service assignments, serving as an aide to former Nashville Mayor Richard Fulton and as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development under Tennessee Governor Ned McWherter. Riebeling has a law degree from Vanderbilt University (1983) and an undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri (1974).

Debby Dale Mason, Chief of Staff

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Debby Dale Mason serves as Chief of Staff and is responsible for managing office staff in support of the Mayor’s policy priorities and the office’s operational processes. A native of Nashville, Mason 40+ year career spans positions within government, non-profit, and business sectors. Her government roles include serving as a previous Nashville mayoral chief of staff, assistant to a Tennessee Deputy Governor and tenures with the Tennessee Department of Personnel, Tennessee Arts Commission, Tennessee Film Commission, and the Tennessee State Museum. In addition to running her own consulting business, she had a twenty-year career with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce focused on regional and local policy. Her other executive-level positions have been with the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation, the Nashville Downtown Partnership, and Historic Nashville, Inc. Mason holds an undergraduate degree in history and art history from Vanderbilt University and a Master’s degree in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University.
Michelle Hernandez-Lane, Chief Diversity Officer

Phone: 615-862-5471
Email: Michelle.Lane@nashville.gov

Michelle Hernandez-Lane serves as the Chief Diversity Officer and leads the City’s efforts to ensure that all parts of Metro Government are diverse and inclusive. Her career with Metro began in 2001, when she worked to develop the existing small business program. In 2007, Lane was appointed as Special Assistant to Mayor Karl Dean for small and minority business development. A year later, she began her role as Metro’s Director of the Office of Minority and Women Business. Prior to her time with Metro, Lane was with the State of Tennessee as a Management Consultant. In 2013, she was appointed by Governor Bill Haslam to the Advisory Council on State Procurement. Lane holds a B.A. from Fisk University and an M.S. in Public Service Management from Cumberland University. She has called Nashville home since 1993 and hails from Palm Springs, California.

Brian Kelsey, Chief Strategy Officer

Phone Number: (615) 862-6340
Email: Brian.Kelsey@nashville.gov

Brian Kelsey is Chief Strategy Officer in the Office of Nashville Mayor Megan Barry. Prior to joining the Mayor’s Office, Brian was Principal and Founder at Civic Analytics LLC and taught graduate level courses in Community and Regional Planning and Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. Brian served as a senior policy advisor at the U.S. Economic Development Administration during the Obama Administration, where he engineered the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge, a $37 million initiative across sixteen federal agencies that was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Gold Medal for creating an “unprecedented platform for coordinating Federal economic development efforts.” Brian has a master’s degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and a bachelor’s degree with highest distinction in economics and history from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Patrick Hamilton, Special Assistant to the Mayor/Scheduler

Phone Number: (615) 880-1502
Email: Patrick.Hamilton@nashville.gov

Patrick Hamilton serves as the scheduler for the Mayor and manages the Mayor’s public and personal schedules, gathers briefing materials, and assigns surrogates to represent the Mayor at meetings and events. Hamilton formerly worked as the Chief Development Officer at Nashville CARES, Tennessee’s largest HIV/AIDS service organization. He previously served as the Deputy Executive Director of the Tennessee Democratic Party and the Director of Scheduling and Advance with the Office of Al Gore. In addition, Hamilton served as both the Deputy Director of Community Affairs and Director of Scheduling and Advance for Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen. Before entering politics, Hamilton worked with UT Extension as an Extension Specialist for Leadership and Volunteerism with the Tennessee 4-H Youth Development Program. Originally from Morristown, TN, he attended the University of Tennessee, where he received both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees.
**Elease Waller, Executive Assistant to the Mayor**

Phone Number: 615-880-1501  
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Elease Waller serves as the Executive Assistant to the Mayor and assists the Mayor with administrative, clerical and managerial duties. She serves in this role after 30 years as Administrative Services Officer with the 40-member body of the Metropolitan County Council. A native Nashvillian, Waller graduated from Hume Fogg High School, where she majored in clerical and administrative studies. Prior to her career with Metro, Waller was employed with American General Life Insurance Company (formerly Life & Casualty Insurance Company) for 16 years, during which time she served as Executive Secretary to the President of Life & Casualty. Waller has served as Church Secretary of John Wesley United Methodist Church since 1987, and she joined John Wesley as a faithful member in 1992. She is married to Floyd Wayne Waller of Brownsville, Tennessee.

**Diane Treadway, Executive Assistant to the COO**

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Diane Treadway serves as the Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer and handles the administrative and scheduling for the COO and office management for the Mayor’s staff. Prior to this role, she served in the Metro Finance Director’s Office for 22 years as office manager and administrative specialist to the Finance Director and Deputy Director. Before her career with Metro, Treadway worked in State Government in administration for the Departments of Tourist Development, Economic and Community Development, and the Governor’s Office and has 38 years of administrative experience. She is a native Nashvillian and is an active member of Bethel World Outreach Church. Treadway is married to husband Greg and has two daughters and one granddaughter.

**Claudia Huskey, Senior Advisor /Special Events and Projects**

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Claudia Huskey is Senior Advisor to the Mayor and supervises Metro department support for hundreds of special events in Nashville and maintains over 70 Metro Boards/Commissions with appointment recommendations for the Mayor. In this role, she also coordinated the initial hiring of key staff and assisted with the structure of the Mayor’s Office. Huskey’s past experience includes working as part of Congressman Ford’s staff at Merrill Lynch, as well as serving as a Research Analyst and Political Director for Tennessee Senate Caucus Chairman Lowe Finney. She also served as the Director of Scheduling for former Vice President Al Gore, and worked as Campaign Manager for Megan Barry’s campaign for Mayor. Huskey resides in East Nashville with her husband Bill, their son Liam, and their rescue dogs Eddie and Lucy.
Sean Braisted, Press Secretary
Phone number: 615-862-6461
Email: Sean.Braisted@nashville.gov

Sean Braisted is the press secretary in the Office of Mayor Megan Barry. In this role, Braisted serves as a spokesperson and advisor to the Mayor, Mayor’s Office, and Metro departments on working with the media to inform the public as to how they are working to promote the interests of Davidson County residents. He is responsible for organizing press events, crafting news releases, drafting written communications such as op-eds and public documents, and working with the office media manager to direct social media. Prior to joining the administration, Braisted served as communications director for the Megan Barry for Mayor Campaign and the press secretary for the Tennessee House Democratic Caucus. Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Braisted graduated from Tennessee State University and holds a bachelor’s degree in urban studies.

Michael Cass, Communications Advisor and Speechwriter
Phone number: 615-862-6020
Email: Michael.Cass@nashville.gov

Michael Cass is Mayor Barry’s speechwriter and prepares remarks and briefings for the many different types of public events she leads or attends each week. He also assists the Mayor with other types of communications as needed. Cass held the same role in the final year of former Mayor Karl Dean’s administration. He previously worked as a newspaper reporter for nearly 20 years, including 15 years at The Tennessean, where he covered Metro government and politics. Cass lives with his wife, Heather, and their two daughters in Bellevue. He is a native of Macon, Ga., and a graduate of The University of the South (Sewanee) and The University of Georgia. Cass is an active member of St. David’s Episcopal Church and enjoys reading, listening to music and watching sports.

Joseph Woodson, Metro Council Liaison
Phone number: 615-862-6006
Email: Joseph.Woodson@nashville.gov

Joseph Woodson is Mayor Megan Barry’s liaison to Metro Council. In this role he communicates the priorities of Mayor Barry’s legislative agenda to the members of the Metropolitan Council. He also works with a team of professionals who represent Metro at the State legislature. Before joining Mayor Barry, Woodson served as the Director of Legislation for the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury from 2010-15. Prior to this, he worked as a legislative research analyst for the Comptroller’s Offices of Research and Education Accountability, and won the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Impact Award for his series on Autism Services in 2009. Woodson is involved in the nonprofit community and has served on a number of boards including the Tennessee Legal Aid Society Community Advisory Board, the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration, and Nashville Pride where he served as President for the 2014-15 fiscal year. In his spare time, Woodson enjoys live shows, camping, history, comics and science fiction.
Laura Moore, Senior Advisor/Education

Phone Number: 615-862-7147
Email: Laura.Moore@nashville.gov

Laura Moore is the Education Liaison in the Office of Nashville Mayor Megan Barry where she works with Nashville’s non-profit and educational institutions to promote policies that spur innovation and support parents and teachers. She also works closely with Nashville and middle Tennessee’s post-secondary institutions. Prior to joining the office, Moore served as the Vice President of Policy for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. She has also served as the Director of Innovation at the State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE). Moore began her career as the project and policy manager at Civic Enterprises, a public policy firm based in Washington, D.C. A Memphis native, Moore earned her bachelor’s degree from Harvard University and her Masters of Public Policy from Vanderbilt’s Peabody College.

Chris Weidel, Social Media and Communications

Phone Number: 615-862-4702
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Chris Weidel develops and manages the social media presence of the Mayor’s Office, assists in maintaining and updating Nashville.gov website, creates email blasts and newsletters, and completes various communication-related tasks as needed. Weidel joined the Mayor’s Office after serving as the Assistant to the Campaign Manager and Scheduler on Mayor Barry’s campaign. She is a December 2015 magna cum laude early graduate of Belmont University with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational and Corporate Communications.

Enriqueta Anthony-Evans, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

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Enriqueta Anthony-Evans is a native of Montgomery, AL. She has extensive experience in the legal field, working first as a Legal Assistant for an attorney in private practice. She continued in the legal field by working in both Family Court and District Court as a Court Specialist before relocating to Tennessee. Since moving to Tennessee she has worked with the Supreme Court of Tennessee in the Court of Appeals serving as a Deputy Clerk. Enriqueta holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Tuskegee University and a Masters in Public Administration from Auburn University at Montgomery. She and her husband Joseph Evans have a puppy named Lyric.
Ronnie Steine, Youth Policy Consultant

Phone Number: 615- 862-6009
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Ronnie Steine is Consultant to the Mayor on Youth Policy. A lifelong Nashvillian, he served as an At-Large Councilmember for four terms (1991-99; 2007-15) and as the city's fifth Vice Mayor. During his Council tenure, Steine presided three times as Chair of the important Budget and Finance Committee. Steine worked as CEO of The Oasis Center from 1995-2000. This experience molded his strong public service focus on youth and families. He was also well-known for his leadership on education and quality-of-life issues such as the arts, sports and greenways. In 2008, he was appointed Co-Chair of The NLC Youth, Education and Families Council and received the National Alliance on Afterschool's Champion Award. Other recognition includes the 2015 Community Nashville Human Relations Award and the first annual Steine Award for Public Leadership in the Arts. He is the proud father of 25 year old David.

Nancy Shapiro, Senior Advisor /Innovation

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Nancy Shapiro serves as Senior Advisor of Innovation where she is responsible for bringing innovative practices to Mayor Barry’s priorities. Shapiro is also Senior Vice President of Special Projects, where she leads high-priority initiatives across all Recording Academy divisions and departments. Shapiro is a founder of Music Makes Us, a Metro Nashville Public Schools music program for grades K-12. She serves on the Music City Music Council and the Music Makes Us Advisory Council. She also served on the boards of the Country Music Association, National Museum of African American Music; Tennessee Film, Music, and Entertainment Commission; Leadership Music; Country Music Retirement Center; the W.O. Smith Community Music School; the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Ear Foundation. She has received many awards, including the Executive Award from the National Women Executives, the Women of Influence Award from Southern Living magazine as well as the Source Award.
Sergeant Rob Forrest, Security

Phone Number: 615-862-7866
Email: Rob.Forrest@nashville.gov

Rob Forrest has worked for the Metro Police Department for 30 years, supervising the security for Mayor Purcell, Mayor Dean, and now Mayor Barry. Forrest is a Nashville native. Growing up, he attended Metro Nashville schools and graduated from John Overton High School. He continued his education at MTSU, where he majored in Criminal Justice Administration and Psychology. In his spare time, Forrest is the supervisor of Hate Crime Investigations, the Crime Stoppers program and security for visiting dignitaries. Forrest has been married to his wife Penny for 28 years. He and his wife Penny have a daughter, Macy, who is an attorney in the Metro Legal Department.

Detective Mike Dixon, Security

Phone number: 615-862-7866
Email: Michael.Dixon@nashville.gov

Mike Dixon has been with the Metro Police Department since August of 1998. He has worked on various assignments, including Patrol, FLEX, the Crime Suppression Unit, and the Security Threat/Counter Terrorism Unit. He came to work with Mayor Dean’s Security Detail in December of 2010. Dixon received his Bachelor’s in Education and Masters in Public Administration from Cumberland University in Lebanon TN. He currently lives on a 15-acre farm in Joelton with his wife Heather. They have a son, Grainger, and own many pets.

Detective Kevin Akin, Security

Phone number: 615-862-7866
Email: kevin.akin@nashville.gov

Kevin has been with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department since March 2001. Kevin is a lifelong Nashvillian and grew up in East Nashville and Madison. He attended Goodpasture High School. He played baseball at Aquinas Junior College where he received his Associate of Arts degree. He graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1999 with his undergraduate degree in Sports Management. He has worked various assignments including Patrol, FLEX, Gang Unit, Homicide/Cold Case, and the Counter Terrorism Unit. He currently resides in downtown Nashville where he has been for the past ten years.
OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lonnell Matthews, Director
Phone number: 615-862-6014
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Lonnell Matthews, Jr. is the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods & Community Engagement. He and his wife, Johari, are proud parents of their baby boy, Ari Jah-Firi. He attended Tennessee State University where he studied Accounting/Business Law. Matthews served as District Executive Director of Youth Outreach at the YMCA of Middle Tennessee for 15 years and is co-owner of www.SpreadLuv.com. In 2007, at age 27, Matthews became the youngest African-American elected to Nashville’s Metro Council. He proudly served alongside Mayor Megan Barry for 8 years on the Metro Council, representing District 1. His leadership roles on the Metro Council included serving as Speaker Pro Tempore, as well as chairing the Education, Parks & Recreation and Budget & Finance committees. A native Nashvillian, Matthews is committed to moving the Nashville community forward and giving every constituent a voice.

Erin Williams, Director of Constituent Response
Phone number: 615-880-1810
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Erin Williams serves as the Director of Constituent Response. In this role, Williams coordinates office and department response to requests for service from constituents. She also coordinates neighborhood leadership development. Williams joined the Office of Neighborhoods in 2002, under the Purcell administration, and has worked in the Mayor’s Office on the neighborhood team ever since. As the Director of Constituent Response, she serves as a problem solver for individuals in need of government assistance. Williams is married and has a son.

Stephanie McCullough, Director of Community Engagement
Phone number: 615-880-1504
Email: Stephanie.McCullough@nashville.gov

Stephanie McCullough serves as the Director of Community Engagement, working in the Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement (ONCE) to educate, engage and empower Nashvillians to play an active role in Nashville’s future. The Middle Tennessee native has worked for over a decade with Nashvillians to engage and empower Nashvillians in shaping the built form of our communities. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Architecture and Design and received a Master of Arts in Civic Leadership as part of the inaugural class of the Nelson and Sue Andrews Institute for Civic Leadership at Lipscomb University. Prior to joining the Mayor’s Office, Stephanie worked with the Nashville Civic Design Center and as a Community Planner for our Metro Planning Commission during the creation of NashvilleNext.
Vanessa Lazón, Director of Community Inclusion and Office of New Americans

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Vanessa Lazón leads the Office of New Americans in her position as Director of Community Inclusion. Lazón moved to Nashville from Lima, Perú, in November of 1997 and graduated from Glencliff High School in May of 1999. This experience fueled her passion to help young immigrants and refugees in many different ways, mainly through connecting their needs with the appropriate resources as well as helping them learn how to navigate existing systems, especially when it comes to attaining a good education. Lazón is a graduate of Lipscomb University, a former MyCity Academy participant and co-chair of the Mayor’s New Americans Advisory Council and Metro Parks’ Celebrate Nashville TEENS United Committee. Lazón served as the youth engagement coordinator at Oasis Center and under her leadership, her students volunteered more than 7,600 hours in Nashville.

Hershell Warren, Community Relations Liaison

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Hershell Warren serves as Mayor Barry’s Community Relations Liaison where he works with the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement to help fulfill their mission of empowering neighborhoods and communities. Warren previously served as the senior advisor to former Mayor Karl Dean. He also served as the director of public policy and governmental affairs for Meharry Medical College. Warren is a past president of the Tennessee Association of Community Health Centers as well as a former advisory board member and chair of the Nashville Prevention Partnership. He has served on the Health Care Task Force of the Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators and worked on statewide health care initiatives for the Office of Minority Health and the Black Health Care Commission. Warren graduated from Fisk University with a Bachelor of Health Care Administration and received his Law Degree and MBA from Vanderbilt University.
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Matt Wiltshire, Director of Economic & Community Development

Phone number: 615-862-6021
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Matthew Wiltshire has served as the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Community Development since 2011. In this capacity, Wiltshire assists Mayor Barry in recruiting new businesses to the City, helps existing businesses expand, and works to ensure that the environment in Nashville is conducive to long-term economic growth. Prior to his current role, Wiltshire was a Director in the Investment Banking Group at Avondale Partners and was a partner at NEST-TN, LLC. Wiltshire began his investment banking career as an analyst with Montgomery Securities in San Francisco and in New York. A Hume-Fogg Academic High School alumnus, Wiltshire graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in government from Dartmouth College. He enjoys basketball and has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya. Wiltshire has two sons.

Audra Ladd, Creative/Small Business Coordinator

Phone Number: 615-862-6027
Email: Audra.Ladd@nashville.gov

Audra Ladd works with the Office of Economic and Community Development in order to support Nashville’s growing small business base, focusing on its entrepreneurs and creative businesses. She works with the City’s partners – such as the Entrepreneur Center, the Nashville Chamber – to connect small businesses with technical, financial, and networking resources. She is also the point-person within the Mayor’s Office for the Sister Cities of Nashville program and works closely with SCNashville on visits to and from Nashville’s eight sister cities. Ladd’s background is in Economics and Urban Planning with an emphasis on creative businesses development and place-making. She lives in East Nashville with her husband, two daughters, and dog. Ladd also maintains a pottery studio and teaches pottery classes at Mid-South Ceramics in the CitySide Neighborhood of Nashville.

Justine Avila, Executive Director – Music City Music Council

Phone number: 615-880-1506
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Justine Avila is the first full-time executive director of the Music City Music Council. The Music City Music Council is focused on helping music-related businesses expand or relocate to Nashville, bringing televised music shows and music-related award shows to the City, and recruiting more music-related events and conventions. The Council’s priorities also include supporting and expanding live music in Nashville and music education in public schools. Avila began her career in the entertainment industry in New York City before coming back to her native hometown of Nashville. She has served as a concert manager of the City Winery Music Venue in addition to co-founding the music-booking agency MJ Booking. Avila earned a Master of Arts degree in Music Business from New York University and a Bachelor’s of Science from Cornell University.
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & EMPOWERMENT

Erik Cole, Director
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Email: Erik.Cole@nashville.gov

Erik Cole serves as the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity & Empowerment. In his role, he is responsible for driving Mayor Barry’s policy priorities related to improving the economic conditions of all Nashvillians. Prior to his current role, Cole served as the first Director of Financial Empowerment for the City under Mayor Dean, and led the start-up of the Nashville Financial Empowerment Center. Prior to that, he served as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, the statewide professional association of civil legal service providers in Tennessee. From 2003-2011, Cole also served the 7th District of the Metro Council. In 2006, he was voted Council Chair Pro Temp and from 2007 to 2008 chaired the Budget and Finance Committee. A Nashville native, Cole graduated from Hillsboro High School and James Madison University and now lives in East Nashville.

Adriane Bond Harris, Senior Advisor /Housing Options
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Adriane Bond Harris serves as Senior Advisor of Housing Options and provides analysis and strategic advice in support of increasing housing options in all of Metro Nashville’s neighborhoods. She has more than 13 years in urban planning, housing development, and community development in the Middle Tennessee area. Prior to joining the Mayor’s Office, she worked as a program director with The Housing Fund, a community development financial institution (CDFI); owner and principal of Impetus Strategies; a consulting and coaching firm; grants administrator and program manager at the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency; and began her career as a land use planner with Metro Nashville’s Planning Department. Harris has a bachelor's degree in political science from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Ashford Hughes Sr., Senior Advisor /Labor & Workforce
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Ashford Hughes Sr. serves as Senior Advisor of Labor and Workforce Development. Hughes has served as the Assistant Business Manager and Political Organizer for the Southeast Laborers’ District Council in addition to his role as the Political Director for the Tennessee Democratic Party. He has also worked as a senior political staffer and consultant on numerous candidates, labor and issue based campaigns, focusing on African American political outreach, candidate development, organizational and community development. Hughes’ community service includes serving on the boards of the Martha O’Bryan Center, Fifty Forward, Nashville Emerging Leaders and the Tennessee Equality Project. He also served for three years as Community Engagement Co-Chair on Metro Government’s Nashville Next initiative. Hughes is an active member of the Shriner's organization, as well as a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, where he serves in leadership on the church’s social and political action ministry.
**John Murphy, Financial Empowerment Manager**

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John Murphy is the Mayor’s liaison to the Nashville Financial Empowerment Center and other non-profits and agencies working on financial literacy, counseling, and coaching. Murphy comes to the Mayor’s Office from the Financial Empowerment Division at the Tennessee Department of Treasury. While at the Treasury Department, Murphy worked for the Tennessee Financial Literacy Commission (TNFLC) and coordinated Tennessee’s Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program. Prior to his work in State government, he served individuals experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C. at Miriam’s Kitchen, an organization whose mission is to end chronic homelessness in our nation’s capital. He has extensive background in the hospitality industry where he managed departmental finances for nearly a decade. Murphy obtained his degree from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth with High Distinction and currently attends the Nashville School of Law.

**Anne Havard, Policy Assistant**

Phone Number: 615-880-3344  
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Anne Havard currently serves as the Policy Assistant for the Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment and is responsible for policy research and planning, grant writing and management, and working across issue areas of the Mayor’s priorities. Havard previously served as Special Assistant for policy on Mayor Barry’s mayoral campaign. Prior to coming to local government, Havard worked in the non-profit sector, where she gained experience in grant writing, non-profit management, homelessness outreach, and effective permanent supportive housing models. Havard graduated from Vanderbilt University, where she studied the intersections of cognitive psychology, religion, and social justice. She is interested in urban policy for economic opportunity initiatives and the emerging role of cities in spurring social innovation.

**Morgan Mansa, Housing Program Manager**

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Morgan Mansa serves as the Housing Program Manager in the Office of Mayor Megan Barry. In this role, Mansa oversees the Barnes Fund for Affordable Housing and Metropolitan Housing Trust Fund Commission, increases awareness of the importance of affordable housing funding and development, and manages property disposal and deed restriction processes. Mansa, an experienced affordable and fair housing advocate, has an extensive background in nonprofit, public, and private sectors, working most recently in the Research & Planning Division of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. Prior to this position, Morgan was the Executive Director of Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance, developing effective fair housing strategies for local governments and providing housing technical assistance to nonprofits and local jurisdictions in the Chicago region. She also served as the Housing Policy Director for the Oak Park Regional Housing Center where she led the policy development, advocacy, and communication efforts of the agency. Mansa received her bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Urban Studies from Calvin College and her Master of Public Policy and Administration degree from Northwestern University.
OFFICE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Mark Sturtevant, Director of Infrastructure/Interim Dtr of Public Works

Phone number: 615-862-6030
Email: Mark.Sturtevant@nashville.gov

Mark Sturtevant serves as the Mayor’s Director of Infrastructure. He previously served as the Chief Development Officer for the Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority and lead project-management roles around construction of the Music City Center. He has over three decades of experience in public or private/commercial development, working as project manager to construct both the Bridgestone Arena and Nissan Stadium. His public-sector experience also includes prior roles with the Metropolitan Development & Housing Agency and the Metropolitan Historical Commission. As Director of Infrastructure, Sturtevant leads coordination of project and field-work among Metro's Public Works, Planning, Codes, Parks, and Water departments, as well as MTA/RTA, MDHA, private developers, and others.

Erin Hafkenschiel, Director of Transportation & Sustainability

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Erin Hafkenschiel serves as the Mayor’s Transportation and Sustainability Director. She previously worked for California Environmental Associates, a sustainability-consulting firm in San Francisco. Her past experience also includes philanthropic work for the Bay Area Council and the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, where she helped manage a $22 million portfolio of environmental grants. Hafkenschiel was also a 2008 U.S. Fulbright Scholar to China, where she studied sustainable urban planning and transportation. In 2014, Gov. Jerry Brown appointed her to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission. Hafkenschiel holds a Master’s in Public Policy & Urban Planning from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy of Industrialized Societies from the University of California at Berkeley.

Mary Beth Ikard, Manager of Transportation & Sustainability

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Mary Beth Ikard serves as the Mayor’s Transportation and Sustainability Manager. She has over a decade of experience in communications and cause-marketing for complex issues, including: early-childhood literacy, private-sector healthcare, human services for vulnerable populations, tobacco prevention, and animal welfare. She comes to Mayor Barry’s infrastructure team from the Nashville Area MPO –Middle Tennessee’s lead transportation policy, planning, and funding authority— where she led public involvement around the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, which diversified the metro-area's project investments to reduce urban sprawl and increase investments in transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. A Nashville native, Ikard holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism & English from Indiana University, Accreditation in Public Relations, and is an MFA candidate with the University of the South.
RESOURCES

Mayoral Scheduling Requests

All scheduling requests come to Mayor Barry’s office in writing. In order to request a meeting with the Mayor or her attendance at an event, please send an email to Patrick.Hamilton@nashville.gov. You may also submit your request online by visiting www.Nashville.gov and clicking on “Visit the Mayor’s Page” and “Contact Us.” Please be sure to include as much detail as possible in your request.

After we receive your request, we will contact you as quickly as possible regarding the Mayor’s availability. Note that due to the large number of requests received, it typically takes 2-3 weeks to process requests for the Mayor’s time.

Please note, due to the fluid nature of the Mayor’s schedule, we typically cannot confirm appearances more than three months in advance. We respectfully request that you do not place Mayor Barry’s name on any notifications, invitations or agendas unless you receive written confirmation from the Mayor’s Office.

Mayoral Proclamations and Letter Requests

Requests for proclamations and letters can be submitted online through the Mayor’s Office webpage. The form can be found under the “Contact Us” tab or by visiting the link below:

https://www.nashville.gov/Mayors-Office/Contact-Us.aspx